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HOME STERILIZATION

I.

DEAR EDITOR: Maybe the experience of one more in regard to home sterilization may help some one. I found the process of drying large articles of linen sterilized in a wash boiler very tedious and required most careful watching. For my own convenience, I purchased a portable "Rochester" sterilizer. The time and steps it saved me in the drying of linen alone more than compensated the cost. Any nurse who has much home sterilizing to do will find the portable sterilizer a great convenience and help, I am sure.

Illinois.

G. M. P.

II.

DEAR EDITOR: In reply to a request for a method of sterilization of goods in a private home, the following plan has proved a success with me. The number of sheets, towels, and dressings for the operation are wrapped in separate packs, each one labeled. Secure a clean wash boiler with a tight cover, arrange a towel or piece of cloth across the top, hammock fashion; this may be fastened to the boiler handles. Put in several packs, cover tight, and steam one hour over boiling water. Do not crowd in too many packs, as this prevents the circulation of steam, and the goods get very wet. After steaming, bake packs in an oven one hour, or until thoroughly dry. It will be necessary to watch them very closely, as cloth scorches so easily. Putting them in a partly covered dish and constant turning help. For a minor operation all necessary goods may be sterilized at one time.

Ohio.

C. L. R.

REGARDING CAPS AND UNIFORMS

DEAR EDITOR: So much has been said about caps and uniforms for nurses, I would like to ask whether graduate nurses are supposed to wear cap and uniform when on duty. If so, who should determine the style of each? What nurses are entitled to wear black bands? Is there any way to prevent practical nurses or nurses in training from wearing them? How could each school have its own uniform for its graduates? Is there any badge or uniform which a graduate nurse alone may wear?

Colorado.

E. J. M.

"A SERIOUS QUESTION" REPEATED

DEAR EDITOR: I read with great interest the following in the September JOURNAL:

"How may nurses who have graduated from hospitals which they found, too late, were not up to the standard, prepare themselves so that they may be eligible for state registration? I hope I am not asking too much and that some of your collaborators may be of some help to this class of nurses. B. W."

I have watched for an answer with that interest which only those can feel who are in the same dilemma. Seeing none in the following numbers, I have decided that it must be forgotten. I know I voice the sentiments of many others in asking you to give it space in the JOURNAL again.

California.

A GRADUATE SINCE 1905.